

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025580

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY; VALLETTA FOR YOUNG AND MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, WA, PR

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA AND PUERTO RICO: DISCUSSION WITH CUBAN
INTERESTS SECTION'S CHIEF
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1. SUMMARY: CUBAN INTERESTS CHIEF ADMITTED COINCIDENCE
OF US AND CUBAN INTERESTS IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF
NAMIBIAN PROBLEM BUT INSISTED THAT HAVANA WOULD SIMPLY
FOLLOW ANGOLAN LEAD ON CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS. ON
PUERTO RICO HE WAS ADAMANT THAT CUBA WOULD CONTINUE
TO SUPPORT PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, THOUGH IT WOULD

NOT SUPPORT VIOLENCE OR TERRORISM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF UN RELATED ISSUES WITH CUBAN INTERESTS CHIEF SANCHEZ PARODI ON JANUARY 30, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES ADVISED OF FORTHCOMING FOREIGN FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL PROXIMITY TALKS IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 11-12. HE POINTED OUT THAT WESTERN FIVE STILL HOPED TO FIND A SOLUTION TO NAMIBIAN PROBLEM WITH SC RESOLUTION 385, BUT THAT THIS ROUND OF TALKS COULD BE LAST CHANCE FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. RECALLING USINTHAVANA'S PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH MOFA ON THIS SUBJECT, MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE CUBAN ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD

RESPECT BORDERS OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA COULD CONTRIBUTE TO ALLEVIATING SAG CONCERN AND TO THE FURTHER PROGRESS OF THE TALKS.

3. SANCHEZ PARODI RESPONDED THAT CUBAN FORCES WERE IN ANGOLA AT ANGOLAN INVITATION TO PROTECT ANGOLAN SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVITED FOLLOWING INCURSIONS FROM ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA. CUBA SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA CONSISTENT WITH SC RESOLUTION 385 BUT REGARDS SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA AS ILLEGAL. THEY WILL BE GUIDED BY ANGOLAN WISHES AND THE VIEWS CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE OAU AND ITS RECOGNIZED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS TO THEIR ROLE IN THE AREA.

4. PICKING UP ON SANCHEZ PARODI'S REITERATION OF CUBAN DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND THE "DEFENSIVE" NATURE OF THEIR PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT IF CUBA WAS PREPARED TO STATE PUBLICLY WHAT IT HAD CONVEYED TO US AND OTHERS PRIVATELY AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE IT COULD HELP TO MOVE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG. SANCHEZ PARODI CLAIMED THAT CUBA HAD ALREADY MADE ITS POSITION KNOWN PUBLICLY BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REJECT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW PUBLIC STATEMENT AT A FUTURE DATE.

5. IO/UNP DIRECTOR BARRY POINTED OUT THAT WE WOULD BE GIVING OUR WRITTEN NAMIBIA PROPOSALS TO THE PARTIES AND THEN TO THE FRONT LINE STATES, INCLUDING ANGOLA, IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE CONTACT GROUP'S LAST VISIT TO LUANDA HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING AS NETO AND OTHER ANGOLAN OFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS, WHICH CAN BE

A CRITICAL FACTOR AT THIS STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WHEN BOTH SWAPO AND SAG MUST MAKE FURTHER DIFFICULT COMPROMISES TO KEEP PROCESS GOING. MAYNES ASKED IF CUBANS KNEW OF ANY FACTOR WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF IN OUR APPROACH TO ANGOLANS ON THIS SUBJECT. SANCHEZ PARODI SIMPLY REITERATED THAT IT WAS UP TO ANGOLANS TO REACT TO CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

6. ON PUERTO RICO, MAYNES INDICATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF CUBAN POSITION AS STATED BY CASTRO LAST DECEMBER AND THAT CUBANS WERE EQUALLY WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION. WE WOULD BE TALKING TO CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION FRANKLY ABOUT PUERTO RICO IN THE TIME AHEAD. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE IT CLEAR
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THAT US WILL SUPPORT ANY STATUS OPTION PUERTO RICO CHOOSES. GOC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ITS ACTIONS IN THE VIEW OF SOME PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE THE IRONIC EFFECT OF POLARIZING THE DEBATE ON THE ISLAND IN FAVOR OF STATEHOOD. GOC SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT IF CUBA REFUSES TO ACCEPT A STATUS OPTION CHOSEN BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, IT WILL HAVE A STRONG EFFECT ON PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN THE US. IN REPLY SANCHEZ PARODI CITED HISTORICAL CUBAN SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE GOING BACK TO FOUNDING OF REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN 1892 AND JOSE MARTI'S PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED A DEMAND FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE. HE RECALLED CASTRO'S STATEMENT THAT AS LONG AS ONE SINGLE PUERTO RICAN SUPPORTED INDEPENDENCE, CUBA WOULD BE BEHIND HIM. SPEAKING OF A PLEBISCITE, SANCHEZ PARODI SAID CUBA WOULD ACCEPT ANY DECISION THE PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES MADE BUT THAT THE QUESTION WAS HOW WOULD THIS DECISION BE MADE. HE IMPLIED THAT A PLEBISCITE UNDER US CONTROL OR THAT DID NOT FAIRLY PROVIDE FOR ALL OPTIONS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY CUBA AS A FAIR EXPRESSION OF PUERTO RICAN VIEWS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, SANCHEZ PARODI STATED THAT WHILE CUBA WILL GIVE POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO THOSE PUERTO RICANS WHO STRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE, THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT SUBVERSIVE OR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. MAYNES CONCLUDED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION WITH CUBA AND HOPED THAT GOC WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT ITS INTERESTS DO NOT LIE IN SPEARHEADING CONTENTIOUS DEBATE ON PUERTO RICAN
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